II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically allocating one or more postal security devices (PSD's), comprising:

an indicia pool of PSD's ~~utilizing PSD's~~ for generating indicia;

a download pool of PSD's for refreshing PSD funds; and

a ~~means~~system manager program for allocating ~~the~~ one or more of the PSD's among the indicia pool and download pool according to indicia generating requirements and funding amounts within the one or more PSD's.

2.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising an indicia manager program that initiates queues for generating indicia and requests allocation of PSD's to the indicia pool to service the indicia queues.

3.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a worker pool of PSD's for initializing and holding PSD's for allocation.

4.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the worker pool of PSD's operates to sets a port number and personal identification number for a particular PSD.

5.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a maintenance pool of PSD's for performing diagnostics on a PSD that cannot perform one or more functions.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the diagnostics include corrective action for correcting a failure.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the corrective action includes reloading an operating system and an application program of the PSD that cannot perform one or more functions.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of dynamically allocating one or more postal security devices (PSD's), comprising:

>   creating an indicia pool of PSD's ~~utilizing PSD's~~ for generating indicia;

>   creating a download pool of PSD's for refreshing PSD funds; and

>   allocating the one or more PSD's among the indicia pool and download pool according to indicia generating requirements and funding amounts within the one or more PSD's.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising initiating queues for generating indicia and requesting allocation of PSD's to the indicia pool of PSD's to service the indicia queues.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising creating a worker pool of PSD's for initializing and holding PSD's for allocation.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising setting a port number and personal identification number for a PSD in the worker pool of PSD's.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising creating a maintenance pool of PSD's for performing diagnostics on a PSD that cannot perform one or more functions.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the diagnostics include corrective action for correcting a failure.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising reloading an operating system and an application program of the PSD that cannot perform one or more functions.